8BIT

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL 8-BIT COMPUTER USERS

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EDITOR'S COLUMN - ISSUE 14

Welcome to issue 14 of 8BIT; back to something like the previous style after the rather peculiar-looking issue 13. This issue has a new and rather better looking header, yet nevertheless it was produced using an 8-bit computer. The 'how' of it is explained inside.

We have a big feature on the support available today for BBC computer users, as well as a double-page spread on the new 8-bit computer which has been officially released this month. I read recently that in one year back in the early 1980s, a new computer was being released every day in America. Those days are long gone. Any new release is quite an event now, especially if it has some compatibility with older machines, which this one does.

I had hoped to include the follow-up to the previous piece on the Einstein, but there was just not the space this time. This will be a bit more technical, but should inspire all computers' users to consider cautious experimentation. I know some people who never bother putting the screws back in the cases of their keyboards, so often do they get split open for fiddling about inside.

The small adverts run to more pages than usual this time too. If you cannot find a bargain or a useful service in 13 pages of advertising (including the 7 pages of display advertisements) I will be very surprised.

I hope you enjoy it as much as I have enjoyed putting it together.

Brian Watson

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AT LAST, THE PcW16 SHOW by Brian Watson

Well, the South Essex PCW Club's newsletter just beat me to it, but what you have here is the first ***national*** (international actually, but who's boasting?) magazine produced in part with the new PcW16 computer from Amstrad. The little 'c' in the name indicates a 3½" A: disc drive, by the way. After all that has been said about it, you are now able to judge its output for yourself. It does not (yet) have a desktop publishing package available for it, so I have produced this using just the Word Processor and a Hewlett Packard Deskjet 310.

At the time of writing, I am using version 1.02 of the operating system. There has been much adverse criticism published in some quarters on the earlier (pre-release) versions, frequently rather petulantly by people who have not had the opportunity of seeing or using, one. Amstrad have been very brave, I think, by involving outside testers without any of us being required to sign a confidentiality agreement. Apart from a couple of short pieces in **8BIT**, I have not set down my feelings on the machine until now, but the machine *is* being sold now, so here goes with a user's report on first impressions of six months' use:

Anyone with issue 9 of **8BIT** (alas, now sold out) or who has followed the saga through **PCW Plus** magazine will be aware that the PcW16 (nicknamed 'Anne' by Amstrad) uses a Z80B chip clocked at 16Mhz, 3 or 4 times faster than most other 8-bit computers. However, because it uses a graphical display system rather than text, the '16's operation is not as fast as might be expected or hoped. The printing of finished copy is particularly worrying until you get used to it as it compiles the image in memory first rather than producing an immediate reaction from the printer; most disconcerting!

Users of the Amstrad NC notepad computers will not find the presence of the red, blue, green and red 'hot' keys on the top line too surprising, but the row of labelled plum coloured ones and the similarly-hued Task keys make operation dead easy from first use. That's the new machine's real strength; it is easy to use for a beginner. All the arguments I have heard about a PC being cheaper (I don't think so), more powerful, and faster than the '16 overlook the fact that the operation of this computer is far more user-friendly than a PC. It manages a graphical interface and well integrated programs without a brain half the size of a planet. That's opinion, but no-one could doubt that this computer, and come to that most 8-bit computers, runs rings round Windows™ when it comes to loading times and the logic of its keystrokes and other controls.

The discs it uses are HD 1.44Mb or DD 720k PC types which other 8-bit computers' utilities should be able to read without difficulty, and it has an **Export as ASCII** option. As an example of its use with other computers, I had a mailshot to do recently. I used **Protext** on my CPC to write it as I am more familiar with its keystrokes, I then used the PD program Dos-Copy to transfer the text to a PC 720k disc which the '16 read using its **Import** facility. The text was then 'enhanced' and printed out on my BJ200 inkjet printer. So those who think the '16 is just some new quirky machine with no compatibility, think again. It reads PCW discs directly too. A newcomer to the Word Processor would find it quick and easy to learn.

The other bundled programs include a spreadsheet, which I have not used much, but it seems to manage all the usual functions well and without difficulty. What I *have* used a lot are the Diary (with alarm facility) and the Address Book, from which details can be drawn selectively for mail-merging. The Diary now records and runs my extremely complicated life and I would not be without it. The argument could be put that a notepad

computer could do the job as well, but to be able to switch quickly between Word Processor, Diary, and Address Book modules works better for me than adding an extra box to my desk.

The new PcW is not aimed primarily at people like me who already have one or more computers. It is targeted, as all the PCW series have been, at computer ignoramuses who want a good cheap computer which will enable the owner to write letters to the expected printed standard of the day and do other low-tech tasks. Anything else is a bonus. Previously, just a basic, non-WYSIWYG, Word Processor was supplied (if you don't count the operating system CP/M and its utilities). The latest PcW includes all the programs already mentioned (but not CP/M), plus a Calculator and a utility suite called the File Manager for transferring files between the disc drive and the 'silicon memory' called the Cabinet. Both support multiple user areas for file storage and for clarity of display there is a 'hidden' area for system files.

It's the little touches that I keep finding which I like too; the ability to give files and user areas meaningful names, rather than the old '8+3' character abbreviations, the wide range of special characters which can be incorporated into the text by key combinations, the occasional undocumented key-combination features (full list to follow in later **8BIT**s), the fast booting from Standby (which looks like switch-off but has your previous position hiding just around the corner ready for automatic recall), the rather hypnotic 'to boldly go' screen-saver, the 'page up/down' keys, the quality of the printed output, but most of all the 'undo' key to correct my cock-ups. That's quite enough for now.

There are *at least* 20 confirmed, and 10 more unconfirmed, programs in development plus a CP/M emulator. Many of these are developments of existing programs, and those which are not are what might reasonably be expected for third party suppliers to come up with for any new computer. I hate confidentiality agreements sometimes! Many of these will bypass the graphical interface and, as a result, will go like the proverbial clappers. The best one I can speak about so far, though, is a wholly new concept on 8-bit computers; Richard Wildey's **Inventory Master** program to catalogue your domestic possessions, room by room, with values for insurance purposes. Oddly, the only area which I have *not* heard about is the provision of 'arcade-type' games. Surely this is an area for a developer to have some fun?

The pre-release 'problems' would never have been heard of had Amstrad kept the testing up to release date point in-house. All previous computers have thrown similar bugs at comparable stages. I am reminded of a phenomenon in my employment as a salesperson in the gifts and greeting card business; retailers notice the few cards they have left far more than the majority they have sold.

So, to sum up, it's a very good beginner's computer, if slow while using the supplied Word Processor. When I say slow, I am comparing it with **Protext**.. I would be very interested to see if it really still looks so when compared with **LocoScript** and its menu system. Existing PCW users will not be able to run their present programs, but with the quality of the new software coming I have to ask why would they want to? Text, database, spreadsheet and graphic files will be forwardly-compatible but not easily transferred in the other direction. Not easily perhaps, but it *can* be done now in some cases and more utilities will follow soon.

8BIT will be running a regular series of features on the PcW16, to complement coverage in **PCW Plus**.

Just before I 'put this article to bed', I spoke to people at Amstrad and Creative Technology (who wrote the operating system) about the technology incorporated into the PcW16 and the development possibilities of it for the future. If the marketing of *this* one works, the *next* one should be incredible!

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As well as 8 Bit Computers we also have affiliated groups supporting PC, Amiga, ST, all Consoles and Groups for users who are interested in Fantasy & Role-Play or Midi & Computer Music.
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Protext has had 12 years continuous development. Despite being packed with advanced features, above all, Protext remains fast and very easy to use. It is a tribute to the programmers that the user-friendly look and feel of the program has been maintained. It is impossible to cover everything here. if you find you still have questions you would like to have answered, further information is available from Protext Software, *Harrowden*, 39, High Street, Sutton, ELY, Cambs CB6 2RA.

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8-BIT COMPUTER NEWS

The Autumn '96 Spectrum and SAM show will be held between 10.30 and 4.30 at the Village hall, Quedgeley, GLOUCESTER on Saturday 26th October. A visit would make a good prelude to the SAM feature in the next **8BIT**. For further details, or to book a stand, phone Format publications on 01452 412572.

Fancy visiting a Computer and IT Exhibition to be held in Victoria Road, Chelmsford on 27th October? I thought you might. If you enjoy it there is another one by the same lot on 10th November at Charter Hall, Colchester.

Another show! This is the All Micro Show to be held on 9th November at the Staffordshire showground in Stafford. Phone 01473 741533 for further details, or contact Steve Potts to offer help on his stand - 01400 261839. You'll be very welcome.

The Cornwall PCW Club are now considering whether to have a 'social' or 'instructional' meeting in December. I know which I'd prefer at the festive season, but you can register your preference with Hon Secretary John Shipcott on 01209 713997.

Due to a recent bereavement, all enquiries for Alchemist Software should for now be directed to Lloyd Garland at Alchemist Software, 126 Hayward Road, Redfield, BRISTOL BS5 9QA, enclosing a stamped envelope so that he can forward or reply to enquiries.

Radstock PCW Club has meetings planned for 8th November and *Friday 13th* December. Good Luck! Phone Adrian Hooper on 01761 436276 for details.

For those of you who use CP/M, you may like to know that the system is now officially 'freeware' and distributable without charge according to official looking notes in the CP/M Internet newsgroup. Presumably, those few sources still supplying patched versions for special purposes will be dropping their prices considerably now that they do not have to pay a license fee to the owner of the copyright? Dream on.

Mike Mee has resurfaced, (see other **8BIT**s for previous sightings!) The 'man with a mission' to store a copy of every Spectrum game, utility and demo on a single CD-ROM for use on an Amiga or PC using an emulator, was at the first Northern SAM and Spectrum Show. I have to presume he is obtaining copyright clearance, though this is not made clear in his information sheet. For further details write to him at *Anncott*, Hylas Lane, Rhuddlan, Clwyd (now Flintshire?), LL18 5AG or phone 01745 591704.

Joyce Cook announces that it is now five years since she took over Softsell, the Spectrum sales and hire service. As a fund of information (I didn't know, for example, that Romantic Robot were still selling Spectrum Multifaces) the Softsell newsletter is invaluable. See the display advert for further details.

ABOVE AND BEYOND Dept

My most profuse and heartfelt thanks go out to all those **8BIT** readers who rallied round and sent me the list of **Epson ESC P/2** printer codes which I appealed for in the last issue.

To recap, I had been asked to make a **Protext** printer driver for someone. This requires knowing which strings of numbers should be entered to produce which effects (especially the built-in fonts). **Epson**, the company who had sold their customer a nice new printer packed with the fonts and features, required £30 for the technical manual with the information which would let them out!

It used to be normal practice to give the printer code information in the printer's manual in just the same way that car makers give basic information like the required tyre pressures for varying driving conditions and the optimum spark plug gap size to enable their users to set up and maintain the car to individual and requirements which could change with time.

Oh, **Epson** would supply a printer driver disc for a PC-based system alright, and if the customer wanted to use a version of **LocoScript**, **LocoScript Software** would *sell* them a printer driver disc, but those nice people at **WACCO** (modesty forbids...) supply their printer drivers free to members of the **U**ser **S**upport **S**ervice, writing them from scratch if necessary. However, this is impossible without the codes.

Well, I was sent the information which had been given to their customers from before **Epson** made it a closely-guarded secret, and it arrived at *Harrowden* in many different forms. To all of you, thanks again. The customer now has a working **Protext**/printer combination that he is very pleased with.

WACCO NEWS

There are two new releases announced this month by **WACCO** Software. The first is a Z80 code monitor and tracer called MONTRAC (on 3" disc with comprehensive documentation in an A4 manual) to work alongside Maxam and/or Utopia on an Amstrad CPC. Other computers' versions may be released later. MONTRAC costs just £14.99.

Of more general interest are a series of A4 tutorial booklets, which were previously published in an earlier version by Pipeline Software, but which are now substantially revised, updated and recompiled. The full list, with prices, may be obtained by sending an A4 SAE to **WACCO** c/o **8BIT** magazine.

Orders for all **WACCO** products can be placed by post (with cheque payable to **ComSoft**) from: **ComSoft**, McIntosh Court, 10, Wellpark Court, GLASGOW G31 2HW or by telephone

MUMPITZ

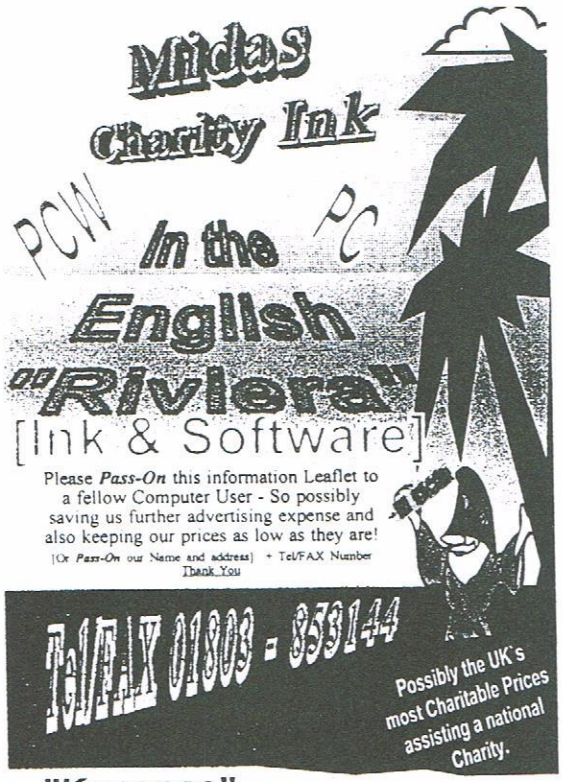
Informationen für Kleinrechner-Benutzer

Können Sie doitsch?

Then you might benefit from reading **'MUMPITZ**, which covers most 8bit computers and their emulators on Amiga and PC. MUMPITZ (= nonsense or rubbish) tests new products developed by german tinkers and gives tips for data interchange between the different systems and hints for the conversion of graphic formats. You will also find circuit diagrams for (new) hardware expansions.

MUMPITZ is a monthly mag and gratis (a kind of *paper shareware* - international reply coupons are welcome). For a test copy write to

Hans-Christof Tuchen, Lotzestr.10,
D-12205 Berlin



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IEBA NEWS

The **IEBA** exists to promote and support the use of 8-bit computers. Life membership costs £5 and there is no renewal fee. All the officers of the **Association** are unpaid and it is not financially connected with either **8BIT** magazine or **WACCO Computing**. I Just thought I'd make that clear.

The second edition of the **IEBA**'s own **Directory of 8-bit Services**, corrected and enlarged by John Walker, is scheduled for release at the end of October. It will cost £4 to existing members (who received the first edition free) and will be issued on that same basis to all new members as the first benefit of their membership.

Another new publication is the second **IEBA** newsletter, which will also be sent out during October.

The **Association** have a new Publicity Officer, David Williams. Once the Secretary has passed over the relevant files and details, David will be working to establish contacts with other groups and publicise the **IEBA**'s activities and aims. The group still have a vacancy for an Exhibitions co-ordinator.

For further information on the **IEBA**, please write enclosing a SAE to the Hon Secretary; Brian Watson, c/o **8BIT** magazine.

INTERNET BIT:

As mentioned briefly in issue 12, the following Internet information comes from Mike Elliston, Chairman of the South Essex PCW Club:

Internet access is possible through Microlink or Prestel Gold (among others) at a preferred baud rate of 1200 one way and 75 the other. This is pretty reliable and, although higher transfer rates are available, these have been found to be unreliable sometimes above 1200. If I read my notes correctly, a PCW cannot handle more than 2400 baud rate(?), although Compuserve can work at up to 9600. He suggests selecting the same file through the various services and checking transfer times to see which provides the best service in terms of ease of use, price, and quality and speed of transfer.

If you would like to get in touch with him, Mike Elliston's address is 96, Sparrows Herne, BASILDON, Essex SS16 5EX. His phone number is 01268 522484.

For those considering adding e-mail to their system CIX seem to be pretty good in what they offer, as long as you can get a local connection from where you are. No Cambridge?! Phone for an information pack to 0181 296 9666.

Commodore Action are now on the internet. Their new web site is at http://www.uk.pi.net/ornit/ then select C64 section from the menu, or apparently you can e-mail them at orbit@uk.pi.net.

COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS -a practical glossary part 2 (contd from **8BIT** 13)

... Wherein your editor tries to clarify the difference between three very similar facilities.

1) A bulletin board; a chunk of programming stored on someone's computer which is reachable down a phone line by another computer with a modem and appropriate software. It may include downloadable software in the form of text or programs, and a two-way message facility. It can give someone accessing it a nasty surprise when the sysop (computer newspeak for *sys*tem *op*erator) breaks in suddenly and his or her text starts appearing on *your* computer screen. Described by one user as a blind alley but with pretty good looking wallpaper.

2) Internet newsgroup; similar to a bulletin board in operation and access, but usually run as an open forum for discussions on a single theme subdivided into topics at the whim of the contributors. It does not operate in real time so the sysop and contributors cannot suddenly start talking to you; this is perhaps an advantage for the shy computer user. It is reached through a server (*ser*vice provid*er*, eg: Cix, Demon, Compulink) who require a monthly or yearly subscription. A newsgroup is usually a text-only facility, although occasionally program code is 'posted' too, which can look fairly daft on-screen. Periodically the older stuff is pruned off by the sysop. The only pictures are rather poor images made with letters and punctuation, for example, the dreaded sleeping smiley face; (-:) or the train;

```
      ooooooo..
  __    _ ____n
[__]=[_]_____}
  oo    o oOOOo
```

3) Web site; an up-market version of the preceding types with the additional option of real graphics (that's pictures in plain English). The servers offer you computer space to do your own, and because it *can* be done it usually *is* done, particularly by people with something to sell, even if it is only their own over-inflated ego. Be grateful the graphics element is beyond access and use by 8-bit computers. Unless, of course, you know different.

Interesting news from Andy Davis on going online with his PC. After spending £200, he found the bundled software impenetrable (same here) and the various obstructions to high speed communication (slow computer ports, slow connections at the local PoP, noisy and permanently engaged lines) insurmountable and he took the modem back, replacing it with a £15 one bought second hand. When he did connect he found comp.sys.sinclair a tedious waste of connection time. So he's offline again until CompuServe put in a faster local node. I sympathise; his experiences almost exactly mirror my

CLASSIX

GETTING ALL NOTALGIC

CLASSIX is a bi-monthly fanzine which seeks to keep the 80's spirit of Spectrum computing alive.

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So if you'd like to take a trip down memory lane. send £1.20 for the latest issue **(cheques payable to James Waddington)** to:

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QUIKMYTH 3

Quikmyth 3 is a Locofile database of Egyptology on 3½" disk only. The first part of the database lists 170 pharaohs in chronological order. From pre-dynastic times through the 30 known dynasties the famous names of Tutankhamun, Ramesses, Cheops and Kleopatra are given special treatment alongside Djoser, Akhenaten and Alexander the Great - the Contents section alone can be used as a condensed history of Ancient Egypt and its rulers and also as a brief guide to the Old, Middle and New Kingdoms and the various Intermediate Periods.
Other parts of the database cover Egyptian Myth, the various pyramids, and the main burial sites including the Valley of the Kings, Saqqara and Giza and the latest discoveries surrounding the enigmatic Sphinx.
Appendices deal with related information such as the connections between Greek and Egyptian mythology.
Quikmyth 3 costs £9.50 including post and packing.

There are three other versions of Quikmyth: version 1 is Greek Myth; version 2 is Greek and Norse myth; version 2.1 is Greek and Norse myth plus notes on Celtic legends and contains additional Greek and Norse data.
Version 1: £5; version 2: £7.50; version 2.1: £10.

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IEBA

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own. If you have not had a reply to an e-mail recently, that's why.

That said, Chic Computer Club have very many good deals as side effects of membership, including your very own free e-mail address and Web Home page. Write to Chic at PO Box 121, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 9JP enclosing an SAE.

THE HISTORY OF COMPUTING - in which the *real* history is charted

Part 1 - The Abacus

As far as I can determine, all histories of computing begin with the abacus, but have you ever actually used one? From the versions I have seen in toyshops they appear unreliable, prone to 'crashing' if nudged, no handbook is supplied (the only way to learn how to use one is presumably to pay for a tutorial course) or user support, you cannot easily upgrade, they are under-engineered (how many of the old ones survived to find a place in a museum?), you can't get the parts for them and anyway they are not user serviceable apart from a quick polish. At least you don't need a screen filter.

It was my intention to turn this into a two page article, but I gave up when even the biggest and best bookshop in Cambridge could not sell me a book explaining precisely how an abacus was operated. A worthy precursor to a PC indeed. I wonder if they called the gaps between the rows 'windows'?

JUST THE FAQs, MA'AM

Bulletin Boards and User Group sites have FAQ files for the answers to Frequently Asked Questions. Last issue it was briefly described how **8BIT** gets put together. Here's another FAQ:

1) "How can **8BIT** hope to cover all the varieties of 8-bit computers made including SAMs, QLs, Spectrums, C64/128s, Sharps, Psions, Tandys, MSXs, various Notepads, Einsteins, CPCs, BBCs, PCWs, PcWs, etc etc (and especially mine) when the editor doesn't have them all, let alone use them all?"

Answer; "The editor does his best, and if someone else should decide to publish an all-formats 8-bit magazine (and a couple several have given it a go in the last year), good luck to them; **8BIT** will be happy to publicise them. Having started from nothing, **8BIT** now has a subscription list of over 700, so it must be doing something right.

"**8BIT** gives preference in its general publishing policy to 8-bit computer news and articles intended to be of interest and potential value to *all* 8-bit computer users, regardless of which computer(s) the author or reader actually owns or uses. The main feature article and the "So I've Bought A ???, What Can I Do With It" series aims to feature the various computers in rotation. I currently have a new C64 one, and the SAM version will be in issue 15. Only when there is insufficient general news and articles to hand do the single-machine submissions get used and that is inevitably very disproportionate from time to time. I'm still waiting for the first QL, Sharp and NC100 submissions.

"As examples of the policy in action, the release at last of a new 8-bit computer (the Amstrad PcW16) is news, as was the release of a *new* games compilation for the C64 as reviewed recently is too. The very recent and imminent SAM, Spectrum Amstrad and All-formats shows will all be covered next issue. If there was a C64 show, I'd go there too.

"~~If~~ When a reader feels their computer is being under-represented in terms of what's 'happening', send in the news and it will be published."

BERMUDA SHORTS - holiday remainders

A buzz has been going round 'the trade' to see if there is the demand for another batch of 3" discs to be made, after last year's lot. Of course, nobody can, or wants to, put up the money alone and the most likely company to be able to get it done properly, LocoScript Software, are apparently not interested. So that's that. Moral; get a 3½" upgrade and use the 3" drive only when you have to. In the mean time, watch out in local newspapers and boot fairs. Lucky C64 users with 5¼" drives.

PCW Plus still soldiers on bravely and well as the last newsstand 8-bit monthly, despite the legion of whingers who complain that it's too thin, too expensive, too trivial or too technical, and doesn't answer letters promptly. Hmmm, that sounds just like **8BIT**. I receive a lot of computer magazines each month and reckon it is still extremely good value at £3.25. The coverage is now quite diverse and users of computers other than PCWs would find much to interest them unless their principle interest is games which the PCW is not too good at.

8BIT is now in touch with the Sharp Users Club. The Club have an excellent A5 magazine (now up to vol16, number 2) packed with articles on Sharp computer usage much, but not all of it, quite advanced and technical. For further contact details see the small adverts.

Congratulations are due to The South Essex PCW Club which has just enrolled its 100th member.

The neat little newsletter from COMMODORE SCENE/HACKERSOFT advises that the new Scene Mag (to be run alongside Scene PD and the secondhand product guide) will now be delayed until late October. The partnership is now the official distributor of Chris Holgate's 'Zine 64. Write to Richard Bowen, 35, Nottingham Road, Nuthall, NOTTINGHAM NG16 1DN for fuller details.

Incidentally, Commodore Scene itself is now *huge* (60 sides of A4 including a card cover!) and excellent value for money for any level of Commodore user. It has just

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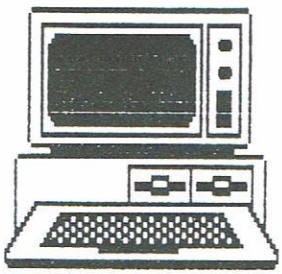

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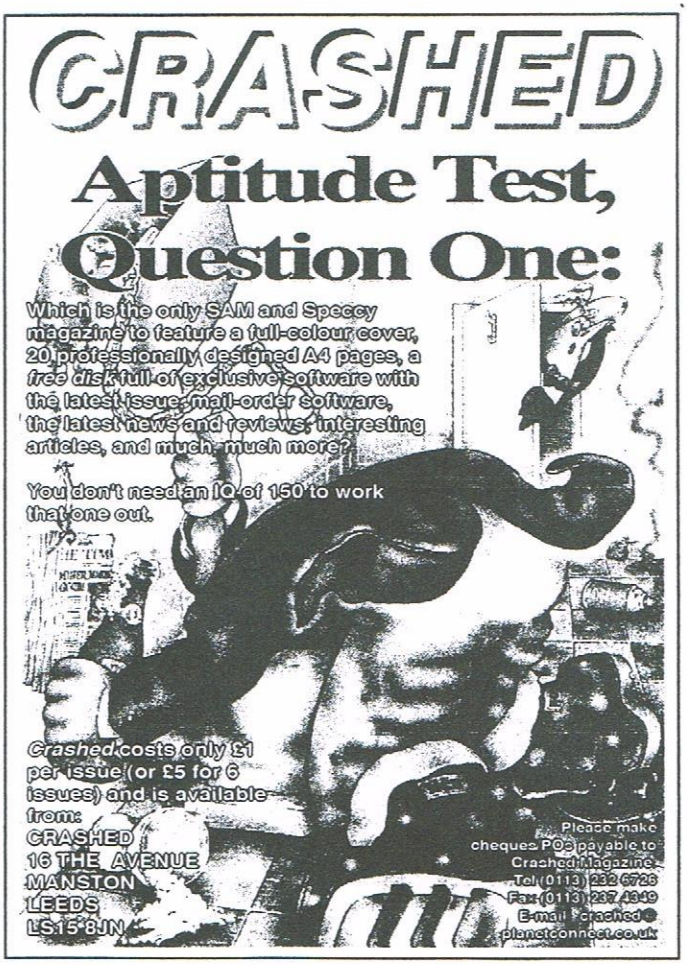
CRASHED

Aptitude Test, Question One:



gone bi-monthly with a price rise to £2.50 and I'm not surprised. To maintain its size and quality it needs that price and gap between issues. In fact I'm amazed Richard can do it so cheaply. Truly brilliant.

A large amount of news on Eagles(?), Osbornes, Z88s, TRSs, CP/M comes from John Butler. Rather than butcher it for inclusion here, I will include it as a feature next issue. In the mean time, he asks does any reader know whether/how three *floppies* may be connected to a CP/M system at once. I know that 'virtual memory' can be recognised as a drive C, but how about a real one? Write to me and I'll put you in touch. Another query he has is; how does CP/M 'know' what format disc it is reading. No, it probably doesn't look at the name on the label... Answers to **8BIT** for forwarding.

Mumpitz, the German cross-format magazine gets even better. Issue 23 had coverage of a new graphical o/s for the CPC and a new software collection for the Vic20. October's issue even contains a little Latin on top of the usual high quality Atari, Oric, CPC, PCW and Spectrum coverage, and the occasional slightly rude screenshots included do nothing to persuade me that 8-bit computers can produce an image likely to 'deprave or corrupt'. See display advert for details of how to get a copy.

A-Z computing (Tel: 0181 744 1834.) are still advertising 3" discs at £42 + VAT, (incl 1st class post) for 10. Strange, for a good company who support 8-bit computing so well, they don't stock the principle alternative word processor for the PCW. I wonder why not.

I had a good chat with Bob Brenchley at the Northern SAM show. For those who don't know, I'm working on bringing out a new 8-bit computer to be called the MILLENNIUM and the conversation with Bob was most helpful in my deliberations on whether SAM technology would be a good basis for the project. I am still considering the options and will keep readers informed on progress. No need for a veil of secrecy, I think. After all, who else would be barmy enough to be seriously considering such a thing?

Crashed is two; funny, it seems more juvenile than that. Just kidding, chaps. With full colour cover and well edited articles from the trivial to the moderately technical, Crashed is a must for SAM and Spectrum owners. See their display advert for subscription details.

Dean Sadler is canvassing for subscriptions to Update 64! (thinks, why do all new Commodore newsletter and mags always seem to feel obliged to include an exclamation mark?-BW). Write to him with an SAE at 46, Adlesworth Road, Cantley Estate Two, DONCASTER, South Yorks DN4 6JT for prices etc.

Leon Bebbington suggests a change of header to replace 'The Magazine For All 8-bit Computer Users'. How about "**8BIT** - that little bit better", "**8BIT** - more bits for your money", "**8BIT** - a bit for every reader", now hang on a minute, was that one bit for each reader? But that would suggest **8BIT** has only 8 readers. "Oi, LEON...!!!" His PS is, "What's the difference between an Amstrad user and a five year old child? Answer; about sixty years or so". Tee hee.

There are more very good bargains being offered in the latest Scotwest PCW Club newsletter. Write to David Williams at 32/34, Carfin Street, New Stevenston, Motherwell ML1 4JL for details.

Tony Adams (Einstein User Group) also runs an Obsolete Photocopiers User Group with George Bridge whose address is 4, Braemar Drive, Sale, Cheshire M33 4NJ. I presume that consumables supplies, repairs and manuals are the essentials needed to keep the old beasts going.

In case you're interested, there is an organisation called the Association of CPC Fanzines run by M. Sebastien BROUDIN, 4 bis avenue Gambetta, Apt 30, 60600 CLERMONT-FERRAND, FRANCE. His phone number is 33 (for France) 44.50.17.14. This association prints a monthly letter with the latest CPC scene news.

Issue 17 of the Bonzo Scrapyard (see **8BIT**s passim) hits the mat and is a good read for CPC backers, hackers, crackers and that bloke who recorded Stranger on the Shore.

Mark Surridge wrote me a thoughtful and well argued letter some months ago in which he reported overheard remarks in a shop about the time when Amstrad decided to ditch their dealer network in favour of Amstrad Direct. The essence of it is that a lot of bitterness remains and the shopkeepers would think long and hard about taking on another Amstrad product, despite finding the machines themselves reliable workhorses. Did I mention Amstrad Direct's number? It's 0990 811811 (10p a minute, apparently) to order *your* PcW16.

A nice letter has arrived from Ken Matthews of Solent PCW services. Just the sort of service provider for the Small Works listings. His number is 01705 268780.

From the South Essex PCW Club newsletter: Hawkwell Electronic Services (phone 01702 207593 and 543620) of Horners Corner, South Street, Rochford, Essex SS4 1DB do PCW spares and repairs. The Club itself stocks drive belts and PCW 9512 armatures.

I can recommend 3 suppliers of cheap bulk inkjet ink: Inkwell 0873 854913, Ink-Ject on 01533 593505 and JR Inkjet 0181 478 7771. I find them efficient at mail-order too.

Computer Cavern still carry a lot of very good 8-bit (almost all formats) software and hardware. They have shops in Swindon, Wallingford, Milton Keynes Sunday Market, Marlow, and Reading. See local phone books for the individual branch addresses and phone numbers.

8000 & PCW Plus Magazines 1986/1995 Article Index

Recently revised this popular database is now available in:-
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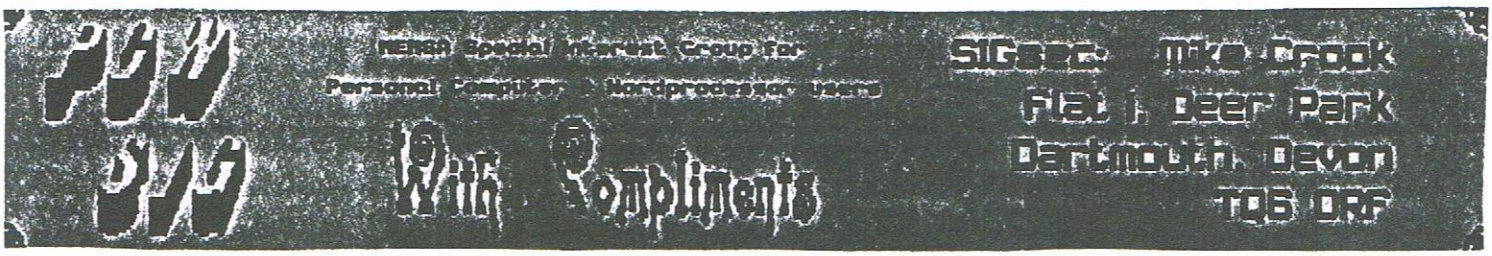

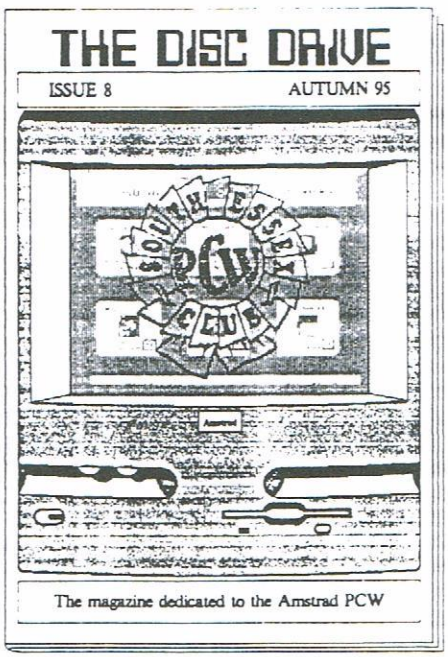

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CLUB ENQUIRIES TO: Keith Simons, 10 Orrishmere Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire. SK8 5HP.

Database Questions and Answers

Background Information: Databases are available for most or all 8 Bit computers. One of the PCW ones is Locofile, which adds database facilities to Locoscript, and may be bought for Locoscript 2 or 3 users on the PCW. Where Locomail is available (on the 9512; it must be bought for other models) additional functions may be used.

What is a Database? A database provides additional facilities for the storage and retrieval of data. The nearest manual equivalent is probably the card index (often used in legal offices for libraries, indices of archived files, records of Wills held, perhaps Clients' addresses and telephone numbers).

What improvements does a Database have over a Card Index? Imagine a library system, where the cards are kept in alphabetical order of book title. Using a database such as Locofile, you could have a number of indices which you can switch between with a few keypresses. Thus, the database could also be used to display data in the order of author's name; date acquired; library number; subjects covered; date last borrowed... or any other order relevant to the information stored on computer. The next advantage is that the database is far faster; you can look up any book's record simply by typing in the first few letters of its name. The database can easily be altered, amended or the categories of information stored can be extended. Unlike with real cards, there is no danger of losing a single card (or having it stolen!); though you will wish to keep backup copies of your discs. Finally, the information in a card can be printed out or inserted into a document.

Can Locofile and Locoscript be used at the same time? Yes. You just press a few keys to switch between one and the other. You can even select Locofile whilst you are working on a document, and take information from the Locofile card currently displayed and insert it into your document.

Address Lists. It can be very useful to store an address list using the Locofile facilities. Available features (using Locomail facilities also) include the ability to write to all addresses automatically (rather like Brian's covering letter with 8BIT); or to write to a few addresses selected by typing in a few letters of their names.

Indexes. I keep the Index to our Club's Newsletters as a Locofile datafile, and this is merged with a Locomail document when it is required to be printed out.

What specific Legal Uses are there? As follows:-

1. Wills. Data: Client's forenames; surname; address; file archive number; date of Will. Indices: date; surname. From time to time the data can be used to write to Clients to remind them to update their Will.
2. Administrative letters. Data: Client's surname (index); matter; review date; notes; Addressee (to whom letters are often sent, typically another Solicitors); their ref; Dear...; heading. The appropriate record can be turned to and the address inserted (use the 'Extract' function) automatically whenever you are writing to the specified addressee; there could be several different records for each case.
3. Archives. Data: Client's surname; details; archive no.

E-Mail/Internet Special: This subject is becoming quite relevant to the legal profession. The most important legal bulletin board is Link, which runs in a specially-designed graphic environment; although they had hoped to offer PCW access at first, it is only available basically to Windows PC users. Internet is of relevance as some legal offices place adverts or directory listings there; but more so now that Acts of Parliament are being placed there. It would be interesting to hear from 8BIT readers if (and how) they can be accessed with a PCW - the address is *www.publications.hmso.gov.uk/hmso/document/Acts.htm*

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We can transfer data between various disk sizes (3", 3½", 5¼" and even 8") and convert to various file formats. We can also provide a Web document authoring and image scanning service.

OTTO

Issue 3 - now incorporating
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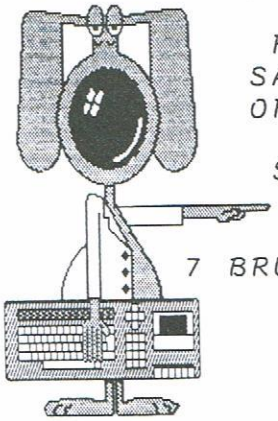

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7) ParaDos - Superb Disc Operating System for use with large format 3.5" B drives. Compatible with and superior to ROMDOS. This is the only DOS ROM which should be inserted in ROM slot seven thereby freeing an extra slot for more software. £14.99

8) The Basic Idea - Quality Basic tutorial aimed at the competent Basic programmer. Consists of a 42 page manual and disc of example programs. £14.99

9) Xexor - Sophisticated file management/disc backup utility, capable of backing up almost all protected CPC discs. £14.99

10) Soft-Lok V2.3 - Comprehensive tape to disc utility, specifically designed to transfer speedlock protected games to disc. £14.99

11) CampurSoft Rombox - Cased 8 socket Rombox expandible to 15 sockets , ideal for DES, ParaDos, Protext etc. £35.00 + £2.00 postage.

SOLINET, THE BBC USER GROUP introduced by George Reynolds

Greetings. Solinet is the original "BBC Micro User Group" and has been around for many years and I like to think that we have done much to sustain interest in these micros. I had the honour to be invited to this chair in Nov 88. It has cost me a good deal of time and cash too, but for the most part, I've enjoyed it and have made many new friends via the Net, as I believe many of us have. We have had people join, merely seeking an outlet for sales and whilst this sometimes may not be a bad thing within reason, we had one who used members' telephone numbers to make nuisance sales calls. After complaints, I intervened and managed to put a stop to that. He is not now with us. If anyone does have trouble, let me know, and I WILL try to help. (Sadly, this sort of thing can be a problem for any group with a common interest and open membership lists - BW)

I believe that there have been other instances of people joining, just looking for addresses, or simply to get what they want and then leave. It takes all sorts! Finally, George Payne tells us that he received junk mail to a new, temporary address, which was only published in Solinet. Don't tell me that Bill Gates and his peers have 'illegal' access to Solinet? I feel sure there is no need for any panic and personally, would wish for Solinet to carry on in our open, friendly way, but as usual, would welcome any sensible comment on this subject. To EXCLUDE your details from SALES, WANTED, HELP etc, would mean you having to wait for up to 8 weeks for a reply via the Net, but maybe with a standard letter, not specifically needing a reply.....? It's up to you. I would NOT add your address or phone number to any file, if you leave it out.

Earlier this year, Jon Ripley joined us and now he is to introduce a new disk based BBC magazine, name of 'BUG', taken from a title of, 'BBC User Group'. Perhaps an unfortunate choice of title, being virtually the same as ours and I hope and trust it will not cause confusion anywhere. I feel certain that it was Jon who told me that he hoped to soon live in France, but I could be wrong. After all these years, there is little that has not been written for or about the Beebs and along with ourselves and 8BS, there are now three of us to share this rather small pot. Hopefully there will be sufficient input and interest, to keep us all going.

This new BUG, reports that "Solinet has a Library, run by another person". The facts are that I keep HERE at Rainworth, several Libraries for the BBC range of Micros. There are well over 300 Public Domain disks, contained within BEEBUG, BBC-PD, DISC USER, STL and 512 Libraries. I have DFS 80T catalogue disks of all except BeeBug. Finally, there are over 50 DFS 80T copies of previous Solinet Issues. Our Derek Leighton (0115 913 9236) has ACORN USER PD, DISC USER and BEEBUG Libraries. Bob Rimmington on 01444 236352, keeps our original 'SoliLib' Library although that might be coming back to me shortly, as Bob may have to pack up his BBC.

BUG also states that "Solinet has limited membership". A curious statement, but is true of course, if it means that we are limited to any computer which can read and write to BBC Disc Filing Systems. Not true if it means joining us is difficult, or if it means we have only a few Members. We currently have well over 200 Members with most being regularly active. New people trickle in pretty regularly.

For those of you who see the Computer Shopper magazine, Solinet should be featured in their User Group page.

BBC CONTACTS:

Disc-based Magazine. Ron Marshall, 41, Westbrook Drive, Rainworth, Mansfield, Notts, NG21 0FB

JG Harston, Harston PD, 70 Camm Street, Walkley, Sheffield, S6 3TR

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JWG Software,
31 Cornmills Road,
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Cambs. CB7 5AT.

"Special Offer"

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(See below for details of program)

Due to the overwhelming success of this program, we have great pleasure in offering you a trial evaluation package which basically incorporates all the main features of the full program, for the cost of only two First Class Stamps.

No, there is not a catch to this offer. If you are using an Amstrad CPC464, simple send us a stamped Self Addressed Envelope, (at least 9"x7" approx.), plus 2 x 26p stamps and in return we will send you a copy of the above program on a cassette which is yours to keep and evaluate!

On the other hand, if you use a CPC464 with a Disk Drive, or a CPC6128 and would like to take advantage of this offer, then simply send a 3" CF-2 or similar disk along with your stamped SAE and stamps as detailed above, we will download a copy of the evaluation package onto your disk.

Supplied on either format, the evaluation package includes; the "BANKER" program, an instruction leaflet and sample account files.

BANKER Is a program that has been designed to provide an easy to follow record of all transactions involving Banks, Building Societies, Credit Cards and similar accounts, in "non-accountancy" terms, but in a form that can easily be understood and used to check and reconcile your file records against their statements.

Offer valid until 30th. December 1996.

Issue 4b 22/06/96

Bonzo's Scrapyard

The occasional newsletter for Amstrad CPC tape to disc transfers

29 Chapter Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3PX

Bonzo's Scrapyard, the tape to disc transfer information newsletter, using the Bonzo suite of programs, published quarterly, is available now from the above address. To receive a copy, send an A5 or A4 sized SSAE, plus an additional first class stamp.

The Bonzo programs are now on sale again

The following Bonzo related programs, which between them transfer over 1400 programs from tape to disc, are available exclusively from Bonzo's Scrapyard:

1 Bonzo Super Meddler and Hackpack

2 Bonzo Blitz (for Speedlock programs) and 4 adventure games written by Colin Harris

3 Bonzo's Flashpack (Flash Basic Utilities and Demos)

4 Bonzo's Big Batch (Database, Pools Predictor, Sprite/Screen Designer

5 Maxidos and CPC Procopy

All the above are on 3 inch disc and cost £8.50 per disc, including P&P.

Also available is the MS800 big format program, this is supplied on 3.5 inch disc and costs £6.50, including P&P.

All the above programs available from the end of September 1995, please make cheques etc. payable to Mr D. A. Caleno.

U.A.U.G.

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For an application form and further info contact...
Gordon Woolliscroft, 2 Wrenbeck Drive, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 2BR. Telephone 01943 463718.

Join Now!!

SOLINET, THE BBC USER GROUP introduced by George Reynolds - contd

Technical Enquiries, Z88 Library. Stephan Richardson. 4 Pulteney Drive, Tillington, Stafford, ST16 1NU

Z88 Library. Bulletin Board. Nigel J Woolcock, *Chaos Cottage*, 5, Turnpike Road, Connor Downs, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 5DT Tel. 01736 756633

Commercial Repairs, Technical Enquiries. Karl Tilbrook, Knight Technology Service, 8, Portrush Close, Narmarske, Redcar S11 8BZ Tel. 01642 475568. Karl trained at Acorn Computers in fault-finding and repair down to component level. He is offering to undertake repairs of your hardware and answer technical queries. Please ring or write before posting your broken BBC off to him.

Spares, Manuals, Welcome discs. John Hubbleson, ACP, Tel. 01256 56666. Welcome discs for Masters and Compacts. Reference Manuals for BBCs and Masters. Well worth contacting if you are after spares or manuals.

Mainly Archimedes, but some BBC Help. G.C.Electronics. Newmarket Street, Consett. Tel. 01207 502249. Archimedes mainly, but is prepared to try to help with BBC stuff.

Electrical Spares. Maplin Electronics, P.O. Box 3, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8LR. Tel. 01702 554161 Enquiries 552911. Catalogue available from large booksellers (Smiths for instance). Fast, cheap, helpful, comprehensive.

Acorn, Acorn House, Vision Park, Histon, Cambridge CB4 4AE

BBC GAMES LIST:

The following is a list of Superior Software, Blue Catalogue, software available at greatly reduced prices to 8BS members. All items £6 each. Except ELITE, REVS, EXILE, and REPTON INFINITY at £7 Each. Purchasers have to quote their 8BS user ID, stating which format they require. The choices are: BBC Micro/Master 5.25" disc, Master Compact 3.5" disc, BBC Micro/Master Cassette. Same price for 5.25", 3.5", and tape.

BBC B MICRO/MASTER 128 & COMPACT:

Acornsoft Hits 1 and 2, Superior Collection 1 and 2, and Play It Again Sam volumes 1-17: (N.B. No BBC Micro/Master Cassette version is available for vol 17)

Elite £7: The Classic Space-Trading Game
Revs + Revs 4 Tracks £7: Realistic Racing Car Simulation
Exile £7: Explore the Massive World of Exile
A Question of Sport: The Popular Television Sports Quiz
Repton Infinity £7: Four Repton Games and a Games Designer
Sim City: The Unique Award-Winning City Simulation Game
Speech!: Give Your Computer a Voice

ACORN ELECTRON:

Acornsoft Hits 1 and 2, Superior Collection 3 and Play It Again Sam volumes 1-15.

Editor's Note: With this very comprehensive evidence that the BBC series are still well supported through Solinet, George writes that he hopes he is not the only BBC user or subscriber taking 8BIT. Well, how about it? My mailing list details do not record the subscribers' computer ownerships or their preferences, although from the small advertisements of the last few issues plus the evidence of several letters received, I deduce there are probably at least twenty or so owner/users on the books. I would welcome readers' responses, which will be copied to George Reynolds.

NOTES FOR ADVERTISERS:

1) Advertisements for **8BIT** number 15 must be received by 10th Dec 1996. Don't blame me if you miss it!

2) Please mention **8BIT** when you are responding to advertisements.

3) You can help readers by including your town's name and county if you are only quoting a phone number eg: 01353 (Ely, Cambs) 777006. Show any time limits you would like respected and give your name.

4) 'Small' advertisements of over 50 words are *not* small and will be cut.

5) In the interests of not wasting space in **8BIT** with items which may have been dealt with by their second insertion, *all* small adverts (apart from Club and Small Works Service announcements) will be dropped after three issues unless I have *written* re-notification or a renewal request that the item can come out before the time's up.

An advertisement which does not get a good response after three insertions is probably either (a) an unattractive offer for some reason, possibly (but not only) in its price or (b) in the wrong magazine for the item concerned.

Natural wastage will free up more pages for editorial, unless everyone suddenly realises what a bargain a free fifty word small advertisement is. Only a very low proportion of the readership uses this facility to clear old stuff or appeal for items or help.

So that advertisers can check their 'countdown to oblivion', a first insertion will be suffixed with REF:3, the second will be suffixed REF:2, and the last one before deletion will be suffixed REF:1. Clubs, offers of low- cost repairs, spares, etc will carry the suffix REF:C (for continuous).

Subscribers to three or less issues of **8BIT** will be credited with the appropriate number of entries, pro rata. For example, someone subscribing to two issues will commence their countdown with a REF:2 suffix.

COPY REQUIREMENTS FOR 8BIT:

Here are **8BIT**'s requirements for all copy which is to be considered for publication:

1) files on disc must be as one of the following: (1) 720 or 1.44 PC discs, any format of CPC or PCW discs.

2) *white* paper. Coloured paper may look good for direct mailings, but it all goes grey in a photocopier.

3) Please, please, do not use an old ribbon or excessively fancy fonts.

4) You can e-mail copy to **8BIT** at: 8bit@spheroid.demon.co.uk.

5) If you want something in your text (headers, your witticisms, etc) emphasised, underline the relevant passage and I will make it conform to **8BIT**'s house style.

6) If you would like your original copy returned, please enclose a NEW, self-addressed, envelope of a suitable size with the correct postage. I will then copy *your* copy, return *your* copy, and work from *my* copy of *your* copy. Get me?

7) Copy should have the same ratio of proportions as those for reproduction (and if you send a horizontal display advert to go into a vertical space; it won't go - hence any sideways insertions).

8) Remember that there must be white space around each image to ensure that information is not lost when it is pasted up and photocopied:

An image for a 'full page' should be NO MORE than 245mm x 175mm.

A top or bottom 'half-page' image should be NO MORE than 120mm x175mm. A left or right 'half-page' column should be NO MORE than 85mm x245mm.

A 'quarter-page' image should be NO MORE than 120mm x 85mm.

Images submitted larger than this may be trimmed or unusable in **8BIT**, so re-size them yourself unless you trust me and my *terribly* sharp guillotine.

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED:

I cannot guarantee that every article submitted will be published but there are some guidelines which, if followed, are more likely to get your work accepted:

1) Conform to the above requests on acceptable media.

2) Articles of *general interest* to all 8-bit computer users are more likely to be used in **8BIT** than those which are only relevant to one computer. Articles on transferring information between different types of computer are especially welcome. If you have written a good piece on one specific computer, submit it first to the editor of a single-computer magazine. I'm sure it will be very welcome.

3) From issue 12, published articles or features are paid for at the rate of 1 free issue of **8BIT** per page published. The basis for this will be the finished, edited, size; so if a ten page article when submitted is edited down to four pages for publication, it will be paid for by four free consecutive issues of **8BIT**. If it is expanded to, say, twelve pages you will be credited with twelve issues. Half and part pages will be rounded up as long as they accompany a full page, and 'nearly' pages on their own *may* be counted as a full page.

In the event of any dispute over payment the editor's judgement is final. There simply isn't the margin for cash payments now, but it is the intention to introduce a payment scale with *money* as **8BIT** continues to grow and the price increase from this issue is hoped to produce a fund for payments to contributors in time.

SPECIAL BARGAINS THIS ISSUE:

As a result of a recent mass mailing undertaken by a consortium of CPC user groups to people on their old mailing lists, this issue carries an especially large number of CPC-related adverts, many of which have been placed by those 'upgrading' to PCs.

Other computers' users should not despair at this point! Indeed, other computers' users and supporters might take a tip from the size of the response and consider doing something similar themselves. It makes sense to pool resources, expenses and the results.

Included in the CPC listings will be items of general value to others, including 3" discs and disc boxes, external disc drives, printers, monitors, etc, etc, as well as (of course) a number of complete CPC set-ups at very attractive prices.

The CPC is probably the best *all-rounder* of the 8-bit computers (all contrary claims to the editor) whereas other computers could fairly claim the crown for specific uses, so as a second machine to a primary user of another computer it offers practical advantages at a reasonable cost. CPCs share many features with the PCWs, have easy (*and free* PD) text compatibility with PC-format discs, and can be used for e-mail and accessing bulletin boards. It shares many games with C64/128s and Spectrums, and many of the available games can use the extra memory of the CPC 6128 to advantage.

A green screen monitor may be best for text handling, while colour will be preferable for use of games and art programs. The 464 has built-in tape loading but a disc drive can be added, while the exact opposite is true for the 6128s. The rather rare 664s have a disc drive built in but only 64k of ram. For most purposes, the Plus series of 464s and 6128s are much the same as the earlier 'non-Pluses', apart from better stereo sound and enhanced colour features. Any model can use a 3½" second drive which are cheaper, easier to obtain, and more can be stored on them; obviously an attractive option.

Good software for the CPCs still easily available and in development for the CPCs, there are several good clubs and mail order magazines for support, and there is a good user base across a wide age range.

If you do decide to 'upgrade' eventually, or run a PC alongside a CPC, much of your old CPC software will work under one of the several good emulators on a PC.

So put aside your prejudices and consider picking up a bargain CPC.

Brian Watson

* * *

COMMODORE - FOR SALE

Lemmings and Quick Data drive for C64. Duncan Tizzard, *Folly Farm*, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR. 01225 891014 REF:3

Commodore 64 with manual + many extras, £20 + p&p. 1541 Disk drive, £20 + p&p. £50 together *incl p&p*. Contact Brian Watson c/o **8BIT**. REF:C

Commodore 64-128 games and books. Also other software-hardware. A4 SAE to: Miss C Hurlock, 8c, Hamlet Court Rd, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 7LX REF:2

C64 Software; 800 titles SAE for price list to Alan, 18, West Street, Geddington, Northants NN14 1BD REF:2

C64-128 productivity software, games, books and hardware. Many sought-after items available (1581 disk drive, CBM Modem, 2 Meg RamDrive, Newsroom, PrintShop Companion, Easyscript, GeoChart, Geos Inside and Out and scores more). Send for lists (stamp appreciated). Michael D Pearson, 31, Saxon Close, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 7DX REF:2

* * *

COMMODORE - WANTED

Space Crusade published by Gremlin Graphics. Tape or Disk. Contact Mark Surridge, COLCHESTER (01206) 792155 REF:2

Calling all C64 users! If you have a 5¼" disk drive and want to swap PD (that's PD *only*), demos, disk mags, games and utilities then get in touch now. Write, enclosing PD list, to Simon Hillam, 61, Tower Street, GAINSBOROUGH, Lincs DN21 2JF. Go on - I don't bite, you know. REF:2

WANTED: Trojan light pen, disk, and tape software for the Commodore 64. Also many items for sale and technical help given for free - just send an SAE or an international reply coupon. Write to Andrew Fisher, 30, Rawlyn Road, CAMBRIDGE Cambs CB5 8NL REF:2

WANTED: Printshop 64, new or second hand - must be complete. Manual for MPS801 and help with Speedscript. Contact M Surridge, 99, Canterbury Road, COLCHESTER, Essex CO2 7RY. Tel: 01206 (Colchester) 792155 REF:2

WANTED! Commodore Format issues 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, 37, 40, 41, and 47 - all in vgc with tapes please. Also wanted: any old Zzap 64s, Commodore Forces, Your Commodores, or Commodore Users. All vgc with tapes. Any reasonable offers considered. Call 01427 (Gainsborough) 610912. REF:2

COMMODORE 64/128 - MISC

If you own a C64/128, you need **COMMODORE SCENE**; bi-monthly and packed with all the news and views from the Commodore world. Send an A5 SAE to **COMMODORE SCENE**, c/o Richard Bowen, 35, Nottingham Road, Nuthall, NOTTINGHAM NG16 1DN. Mention **8BIT** for a free disk of software with your first order. REF:C

Always plenty of bargains from EBES - Electric Boys Entertainment Software. See display advertisement elsewhere in **8BIT**. REF:C

AMSTRAD CPC - FOR SALE

6128, DMP2000 printer, 3½" drive, Rombox, Parados, DES, Brunword, Art Studio + mouse, Multiface, loadsa games. Offers invited. Mr T Clarke, 21a, Ballycombes Road, PORTGLENONE, Co Antrim BT44 8NQ. REF:1

Many original CPC games for sale by the author. Write with SAE to Mr M Boudier, 117, Wordsworth Avenue, PENARTH, S Glamorgan CF64 2RQ REF:1

6128 with DMP200 printer for sale. SAE and offers to Mr J Barnes, 48, Grand Avenue, Hasocks, W Sussex BN6 8DE. REF:1

6128 + mono/colour monitors, Epson 80 printer, discs, games, extras. SAE and offers to Mrs AM Blazely, 10, St Nicholas Court, Penstone Park, West Sussex BN15 9AN. REF:1

6128/mono monitor + substantial add-ons and software. SAE for lists. Mr WA Brittain, 12, Belvoir Gardens, Great Gonerby, GRANTHAM, Lincs NG3 8LG. REF:1

Loads of CPC peripherals, books and software for sale as one lot. Lists then offers from DE Burton, 34, Seamer Road, Thornton, MIDDLESBOROUGH, Cleveland TS8 9DG. REF:1

CPC 6128+ with mono monitor, **discs, manuals, much serious** software, many extras. £100 ono - **what a bargain! Mr N Deeley, Plot** 13, Brynderwen Cilfyndd, PONTYPRIDD, Mid-Glamorgan. REF:1

CPC-suitable modems + software, Ramrom, Rom blower/eraser, 3½" drive etc etc. SAE to Mr J Crooks, 147, Ulsterville Avenue, Lisburn Road, BELFAST BT9 7AU. REF:1

6128 + colour monitor with drive fault (just needs new belt?) for sale £35 ono. Mr J Bridges, Three Ashes, Bramley Road, Silchester, READING, Berks RG7 2LL. REF:1

6128 with colour monitor, with 2 additional 3" drives, Protext WP and Utopia on rom, Mini Office 2, TAS suite, Matrix, Amstrad 2400 modem, Epson LX printer, + loadsa stuff. Martin Dew, Doverhay Cottage, 78, Longmoor Road, Liphook, Hants GU30 7NZ. REF:1

Large quantity of CPC books, mags, software and hardware for disposal. SAE to Mr R Farndale, 1, Lasham Court, NORTHAMPTON, NN3 9BD. REF:1

Brunword Elite with Headline, Mini-Office 2, Advanced Music System, Afterburner, AMX mouse and interface. JG George, 1, Vine Cottages, Gwaelodygarth, CARDIFF, CF4 8HQ. REF:1

Offers for 6128 + colour monitor with assorted software. Mr N Allan, Flat 1/2, 52, Trainard Avenue, GLASGOW G32 7RD. REF:1

Tape/disc games and GX4000 kit. Duncan Tizzard, *Folly Farm*, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR. 01225 891014 REF:3

CPC 6128-CTM644-extras £85+p&p, LQ3500 (24pin) mechanism (no case-power supply) £35, 464-CTM640-disc drive-extras (no f0 key) £70, 3.5" drive c/w sideswitch £45, ACE 1-47 £55, also many ACUs and AAs (no covertapes). Send SAE for lists. ALSO A WANTED: Manual or help for Micro Simplex (6128 version). 01376 344572. R Everett, 2, Coldnailhurst **Avenue, BRAINTREE, Essex CM7 2SJ.** REF:2

Six 3" discs for sale @ £1 each incl p&p. Contact Mark Surridge (COLCHESTER, Essex) 01206 792155 REF:2

CPC Software; 500 titles SAE for price list to Alan, 18, West Street, Geddington, Northants NN14 1BD REF:2

Amstrad CPC Database Software "Mini-Office" on 3" disc complete with instructions. Plus Dr Logo & Help. CP/M Plus system utilities. SAE to Alan, 18, Walton Drive, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 4UZ REF:2

An unusual (in Britain) CPC464 with the Spanish keyboard layout, £10 + p&p or possible free delivery available. Phone Brian Watson 01353 (ELY) 777006 REF:2

Amstrad CPC464 games for sale. Send SAE for list to 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 260729 after 7pm REF:2

Amstrad Action issues 52-55, 57, 59-64, 67, 69-72, 74, 75, 77-79, 81, 82 (no covertapes). £10 the lot. Telephone: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 7-10pm REF:2

Amstrad Action covertapes 35-51 50p each + p&p. Phone Derek on 01745 (Denbigh, Clwyd) 730498. REF:2

Loads of CPC items for sale - Tapes, Discs, Magazines, Books. For list send a SSAE TO T.Davies, 8, Garden Suburbs, Trimsaran, Nr Kidwelly, Dyfed SA17 4AB REF:2

Xenomorphs: new game by David Hall only £2. Also comes with previously unseen PD software. Send a 3" disc, SAE and cheque or postal order to:- David Hall, 280, Derbyshire Lane West, Stretford, MANCHESTER, M32 9LU. NEWS FLASH - mention **8BIT** and save £1 (half price) REF:2

For Sale: **Amstrad Action** 16-23, 25, 28, 30, 35, 37-39, 43, 48, 50-59, 71, 89, 91-95, 98-100. **Amstrad Computer User** Sep 86-Jul 89, Sep 89-Jun 90, Aug 90, Mar 92. **Computing With The Amstrad** Jun 87-Oct 87 + April 88. **CPC Attack** Jun and Sep 92. **CPC Computing** Dec 88. Many with cassettes. £1.50 each inc p&p. Discount for 5+. JW Gamble, 31, Cornmills Road, Soham, Cambs CB7 5AT. REF:2

CPC games. Tapes from 25p, discs from £2. A4 SAE to Miss C Hurlock, 8c, Hamlet Court Rd, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 7LX REF:2

CPC6128 + colour monitor, TV adaptor + aerial, mouse, joystick, 3½" drive, DES, tape, Multifce2, Wide-carriage printer, lightpen + art software, MO2, turbo Pascal, Art

AMSTRAD CPC - FOR SALE - contd

Studio, games, mags, extras. Joshua (GLOUCESTER) 01452 740969 REF:1

The following tape games: Batman, Rollaround, Superstar Challenge, NightBreed, all 50p each + p&p. Also Mini Office on tape. Please contact Mark Johnson, 13, Ashway, Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 9EB or telephone 01375 677631 for more details. REF:2

A CPC6128 computer with colour monitor, extra external 3" drive, tape recorder, joystick, some games and some serious discs, Mini-Office 2. Offers. Tel: 01642 617656 REF:2

Large list of 2nd hand CPC tape and disc software and hardware at sensible prices. Originals c/w instructions. Send 1st class stamp and return label for lists. Brian Watson, c/o **8BIT** magazine. REF:C

LOADS OF CPC goodies: Tapes, Discs, Roms, Books, Magazines and Hardware. For list send A5 SSAE: *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ. REF:C

AMSTRAD CPC - WANTED

A rom box and software for CPC. Mr F Clark, 2, Geck Street, Allora, Queensland 4362, Australia. REF:1

8-chip rom board with WIMP, RODOS (or better), etc. Also 8-bit cable for DMP2000, and CPC Emulator for PC. Mrs S Brighton, 126, Lupton Road, SHEFFIELD, S8 7NH. REF:1

Printer wanted to work with CPC464. Mr FR Evans, 43, West Place, Gobowen, OSWESTRY, Salop, SY11 3NR. REF:1

Is a Genlock available for a CPC? I have designed titling programs but cannot overlay onto video tape. Mr RJ Dunn, 50, Seddon Lane, Radcliffe, MANCHESTER M26 1HZ. REF:1

I need a working print head or the coils unit to fit a DMP2000 series printer. Phone Geoff 0171 474 2869 (E London). REF:1

Repairer needed (sounds like a drive belt to me-BW) for 6128. I have Brunword files which need saving to disc. Mr C Dunne, 7, Crawshaw Rise, PUDSEY, W Yorks LS28 7ER. REF:1

Repairer needed locally for an expanded CPC464. Also contacts wanted for serious and games disc-based software. Mr DP Green, 14, Springfield Road, WIGAN, Lancs WN6 7AT. REF:1

Screen blanker wanted (not DES) for CPC. Mr J Gall, 24, Watson Street, ABERDEEN, AB5 2QJ. REF:1

Help needed to repair a Multiface 2 which becomes hot in use and ceases to function. Please contact Matthew on 01684 (Tewkesbury) 274993. Cost to be discussed REF:1

Please can anyone help with the use of Russian on a CPC6128 with Protext, preferably including screen and printer character redefinition? All assistance greatly appreciated. Matthew Harris, Flat 6, 5, Barton Road, TORQUAY, Devon TQ1 4DW REF:1

Videomaster Dart Scanner, RS232, Amstrad Action; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 3, 4 and 38. ACU of 1986; Mar, May, Sep. ACU of 1987; May, Jun, Jul, and Sep. **WACCI**; all back issues from 4-30. Plus other fanzines that I don't have, please write to me at: Rafael Delgado Peiro, c/ Cyesa 3-1-D, 28017-MADRID, Spain REF:1

Wanted Amstrad Action issues 1-28, 33, 36, 37, 45 and 52 with covertapes. Will pay up to £1.50 each. Also wanted **Bonzo Scrapyard** newsletters; will pay 50p each. Philip Barrass, 12, Westburn Terrace, Roker, Sunderland SR6 9RB REF:2

Wanted AMX mouse for use with 6128. Reasonable amount paid. Telephone: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 7-10pm REF:2

Games for CPC, tape or disk please. Send price list to Martin Bela, 11, Colwell Drive, Brookside, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0UP REF:1

DESPERATELY WANTED; an internal 3" drive for my 6128+ (5v). Also Amtix issue 1. Angela in Worthing: 01903 206739 REF:2

WANTED: Complete circuit board for 464 (Mk2 condensed version; joystick + I/O ports on left side). Independent power supply (5v+12v output), for 6128 used without Amstrad monitor. Vgc daisywheels for Dyneer DW16. Megamaths on tape or disc. Write: Mr N Davies, Flat 1, 39, Broad Street, Newtown, Powys SY16 2BQ REF:1

ACU for Nov '84 to Feb '85, Jun '86 to Oct '86, Sep '87 to Dec '87, April '90, Sep '90. Also Amstrad Action 1 and 2 and Amtix 1, 3 to 5, and 10-14. Also Pre-40 issues of **WACCI**, **CPC User** 1, any issues of CPC Power, CPC Now from 4 onwards, **Rundschlag** 1-8. Peter Curgenven, *The Hollyar*, Bay Road, Trevone Bay, Near Padstow, Cornwall PL28 8QZ. Tel: 01841 520875 REF:2

Wanted for Amstrad CPC 6128: these adventures on disc; Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy (Infocom), Ingrid's Back (Level 9), Also wanted, these games on disc; Meltdown (Alligator), Knight Games (English Software), Amstrad Action magazines issues 1-7 inclusive. The cover prices offered. Jo Wood, 38, Stonehill Drive, Rooley Moor, ROCHDALE, Lancs OL12 7JN. Telephone: 01706 861185 REF:2

WACCI wanted 4-15, 19, 22, 23, 25, 31, 35, 51 Christine Raisin, Tel: 0115 (NOTTINGHAM) 9133181 REF:2

Rombo rombox wanted for original Amstrad CPC 6128. State price wanted. Apply: Mr RE Hobday, 43, Cody Road, Clapham, BEDFORD, Beds. MK41 6ED REF:2

Disc Base + a manual for CPC. £6 (incl p&p.) RE Hobday, 43, Cody Road, Clapham, BEDFORD, Beds MK41 6ED REF:2

CPC - MISCELLANEOUS

WACCI. If you have a CPC then you need us. Send a 29p stamp to: **WACCI**,

CPC MISCELLANEOUS - contd

7, Brunswood Green, Hawarden, Deeside, FLINTSHIRE CH5 3JA to see what you are missing!

KING ARTHUR'S DOMAIN is a disc PD Library for the CPC. We have games, utilities, music, clip art, a large selection of CP/M programs and lots more. For catalogue, send 3"/3½" disc + SSAE to: **KAD**, *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ.

Are you a frustrated Amstrad CPC User seeking help and support? Then why not join the **United Amstrad User Group** for PD material (small copy charge), concessions and support, a bi-monthly magazine, all for £8 per annum. Send SAE to secretary Gordon Woolliscroft, 2, Wrenbeck Drive, OTLEY, West Yorkshire LS21 2BR for details.

Bonzo's Scrapyard, the newsletter for CPC tape to disc transfers via the **Bonzo** suite of programs. Price; a large SSAE plus an extra 1st class stamp. From: **Bonzo's Scrapyard**, 29, Chapter Road, Strood, ROCHESTER, Kent ME2 3PX

GD.PD: The ultimate in PD software at only 25p per disc side (copy charge) for your Amstrad CPC. For the GD.PD list send an SSAE to: Dave Stitson, 6, Connaught Avenue, Mutley, PLYMOUTH, Devon PL4 7BX

AMSTRAD PCW - FOR SALE

4 master discs (with no manuals) £22 inc postage. Locoscript 2, Locoscript 2 upgrade, Locospell, Locofile. David Matthews, 160, Falford Road, YORK YO1 4DA. REF:1

6 3" discs for sale @ £1 each inc p&p. Contact Mark Surridge 01206 (COLCHESTER, Essex) 792155 REF:2

Amstrad PCW8256/8512 parts for DIY repair: 3" drives, CPU boards, Power boards, Tubes, Keyboards, printers, etc. Also some books and software. Advice freely given. SAE please for lists and info. Ron King, 19, Stancliffe Road, BEDFORD, Beds MK41 9AN REF:2

Unused 3" LocoScript and CP/M software for Amstrad 8000 or PCW9512 £10. Amstrad PC-CM to fit PC1512 £25. PCW10 user manual, new £6. PC1512 and PC1640 5¼" software £5. Various Amstrad keyboards £6. Mr Dodds 01388 (BISHOP AUKLAND) 606744 REF:2

Hardware, 3" discs, back issue magazines, programming books, games, stationery, software and much, much, more. Please send large stamped, addressed envelope for full list to: Mr JW Gamble, 31, Cornmills Road, Soham, ELY, Cambs CB7 5AT REF:2

MD Viewpoint (PCW-PC conversion disc) £25, Moonstone 3" PCW-PC-PCW disc £15, PCW+ 64-116 c/w binders £25. SD Mini-Publisher £12.50, Fancy Borders £7.50, Super Labeller £12.50, Picture Disc (Fun Christmas) £2.50. All 3½" discs c/w manuals. Mr W Downie, 8, Smithy Road, STRANRAER, DG9 8LP. Tel: 01776 704363. REF:2

QUIKMYTH: a Locofile database on 3½" disc in 4 versions: (1) Greek mythology (126k) £5, (2) Greek and Norse Myth (168k) £7.50, (2.1) Greek, Norse and Celtic Notes (212k) £10, and (3) Egyptology (180k) £9.50. Cheques to: DJ Gaskin, 119, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NP REF:2

12 brain twisting games from SPARK Software for the PCW including Coconut Shy and Fishing. Send cheque for £5 to Mr C McKenzie, 20, Macclesfield Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1NR. Specify 3" or 3½" disc REF:2

Masters with manuals: LS/LM temp disc £5, Matrix Locofont £6, Flipper v3.10 £15. STILL AVAILABLE - WRONG INFORMATION GIVEN TO CALLER IN APRIL. Sybil Fox 67, Alder Lodge, Stevenage Road, LONDON SW6 6NR. 0171 381 1445. REF:2

AMX Stop Press, Caxton Condor 1, Caxton Scratchpad+Smartkey; £15 ea. Tas-Sign, Lord of the Rings game 1; £10 ea. Synergy Sharemaster, MAP Initnon ledger system; £20 ea. SCA Professional + interface £45. Cut cable 9pin female to 25pin female; free. AEG Olympia FCC 1D2 interface 36pin to 20pin ribbon; £30. JR Cross, *The Parciau*, Clyro, Hay-on-Wye, HEREFORD HR3 5SG REF:2

AMSTRAD PCW - WANTED

Tecniche PCW102 keyboard in good working condition. N Bannister, Tel: 01732 374732 (GRAYS, Essex). REF:3

Can you help? Wanted: a set of PCW 8512 master CP/M discs. Also a decent general purpose PCW database program. Mark Weir, 24 Eastmount, Newtonards, Co.Down, N Ireland BT23 8SE. REF:3

Cyrus II Chess with instruction leaflet for use with PCW9256 using 3½" drive (or CPC 6128 version) Keith J Bull, *Le Coié*, 60, Hildaville Drive, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA, Essex SS0 9RU. Tel: 01702 339894. Thank you. REF:2

For PCW8512: A 720k drive B in working order, also DR's Assembler and Disassembler, 3" discs of both types for a PCW, any PCW books such as **The Amstrad CP/M Plus** by David Powys-Lybbe and Andrew RM Clarke (published by MML), **CP/M Software Bus** by A Clarke, JM Eaton & D Powys-Lybbe (publ by Sigma Technical Press). Write to: J-C Maurin, 3, Square Gabriel Fauré, 75017 PARIS, France. REF:2

User Instruction manual for an Amstrad PCW 9512 with daisywheel printer. Eileen. 01621 (Maldon, Essex) 788273 REF:2

AMS30L Disc boxes, SCA Pro interface, LocoFile 3 for a PCW9512. Phone Vic on 01268 (CANVEY ISLAND, Essex) 514142 REF:2

For Sale: AZ-330 Olympus Super zoom camera with an infra-red remote unit, filters, soft case. £175. Would consider part exchange for PCW hardware. Phone: Ted 01275 (BRISTOL) 340565 REF:2

Any help or information on PCW 9256; Programs, games, Locoscript 3,

AMSTRAD PCW WANTED - contd

upgrade memory with chips, 3½" disks. Mr WA Warren, 25, Milton Avenue, ANDOVER, Hants SP10 3DP REF:2

I would appreciate details of any items for sale or exchange related to PCW8512. Hardware, printers, software, peripherals, programs, discs, manuals, books, etc. Require especially any items related to Protext or Basic, and manuals for Microdesign, Masterfile 8000, Dbase II, Frank Bohan, 13, New Road, Elsenham, BISHOPS STORTFORD, Herts. CM22 6HA REF:2

AMSTRAD PCW - MISCELLANEOUS

Berkshire Amstrad PCW Users Club offers you FREE telephone support, FREE magazine/book loan, FREE machine loan, FREE newsletter. FREE access to bulletin boards etc. FREE Special offers; eg 3" discs only £10 per 10. SAE for details to Ed Harris, 121, Bullbrook Drive, BRACKNELL, Berks RG12 2QR

Globe-trotting, or just interested? Contact **CAPITAL COMPUTER CLUB**, c/o Ray C Petersen (the Secretary), 21, Mapplebeck Street, Titahi Bay, Porirua, New Zealand. The Club now has members with Amstrads (all sorts), Amigas, Macs, Sanyos and PCs with DOSand CP/M. They subscribe to **PCW Plus** so are well up to date. New members are welcome at each monthly meeting.

The **Cornwall PCW Club** meets on the second Saturday of each month (July and August excepted) in St Austell. All those interested in PCWs are most welcome to join us. Details from John Walker on 01752 (Plymouth) 706266

TRACK is the name of the very useful free advertising feature section of **SCOTWEST.pcw**, the magazine of the PCW Club of the same name. For more details contact David Williams, 32/34, Carfin Street, New Stevenston, MOTHERWELL ML1 4JL Scotland. 01698 732403

SINCLAIR SPECTRUM - FOR SALE

Light gun, games, etc etc Duncan Tizzard, *Folly Farm*, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR. 01225 891014 REF:3

Spectrum software for sale. SAE to Nick Cheesman, 70, Wellesley Close, Avondale, Ashvale, ALDERSHOT, Hants GU12 5SP REF:2

Cheap Spectrum software and hardware for sale. Send an SAE for a 7-page list. Prices start at just 10p. Write to Chris (quoting **8BIT**), *Glenhirst*, Station Road, Swineshead, Near BOSTON, Lincs PE20 3NX REF:2

Six 3" discs for sale @ £1 each incl p&p. Contact Mark Surridge (COLCHESTER, Essex) 01206 792155 REF:2

Spectrum +3 drive belts. £2.45 inc P&P from AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED REF:2

50 games from 50p each + various covertapes. SAE to S Swainson, 7, Upper Hill Rise, RICKMANSWORTH, Herts WD3 2NU REF:1

Spectrum games for sale from 50p each. Send SAE for list to: Pauline Fuller, 4, *Whitehouse Cottages*, Sot's Hole Bank, Holbeach St Matthews, SPALDING, Lincs PE12 8EJ REF:2

Spectrum Software; tapes and discs, games and serious. SAE for massive list to Alan, 18, West Street, Geddington, Northants NN14 1BD REF:2

SINCLAIR SPECTRUM - WANTED

Wanted for Spectrum Plus 3 - a word processor with print out facility with or without spell checker as well. Contact Geoff 0171 474 (E London) 2869. Leave information on answerphone with phone number or address REF:2

For Spectrum +3 - a Multiface 3. Willing to pay a good price. Also a copy of Zulu Wars on tape or disc. Willing to buy or swap for any games I may have of interest. Please contact Peter Stevens, 41, Nelson Street, Rosyth, FIFE KY11 2JU. Phone: 01383 419075 REF:2

Old platform and ladder games. Also any second-hand SAM software. Write to: John Turner, 58, Burnside, PARBOLD, Lancs WN8 7PE REF:2

MISCELLANEOUS SMALL ADVERTS

Spectrum, Amstrad, C64, Dragon, Acorn, Electron etc games and other software plus accessories for sale or swap. Home Computer Course - complete but unbound. SAE for list. Tel: 01132 671393. John Thomson, 78, Holtdale Avenue, LEEDS LS16 7SG. REF:1

Are you a user of an Amstrad NC100 or 200 notepad? If you believe there is some benefit to be gained by linking together such users please phone John Walker on 01752 (PLYMOUTH) 706266 and we will take it from there.

The **Protext User Club** is free to all users of the Protext family of programs on *all* computers. For further details, send 2 1st class stamps and/or a disc (any format) LABELLED WITH YOUR NAME ON IT to **Protext Software** c/o **8BIT** magazine.

BBC Users? I have lots of software available on disk and tape. I would also like any magazines or anything for the BBC Micro or Master. Please send large SAE to 41, London Road, LICHFIELD, Staffs WS14 9EP or phone 01543 258032. Ask for George. ** Please Help ** REF:2

Did you know? The **IEBA** (The Independent Eight Bit Association) is a group active in promoting the use of 8-bit computers. The second edition of their **Directory** of **8-bit Services** is now imminent and is free to members. Life Membership is £5. For further details send 2 1st class stamps to Brian Watson c/o **8BIT** magazine.

Free to a good home. For a BBC: AMX Art and Games Galore. SAE to S Swainson, 7, Upper Hill Rise,

MISCELLANEOUS SMALL ADVERTS - contd

RICKMANSWORTH, Herts WD3 2NU REF:2

Penguin Software (run by *the* Simon Green), at 62, Nursery Road, Knaphill, WOKING, Surrey GU21 2NW is apparently a wonderful PD library. But which format? Just CPC? Dunno.

If your floppies need upgrading, try **FFWD Services** for drives and services for CPCs, PCWs, and early PCs (1512s and 1640s). PO box 55, LUTON, Beds LU1 1XG. 01582 423295.

For SAM sales and support: Bob Brenchley, **Format Publications**, 34, Bourton Road, GLOUCESTER GL4 0LE. Send large SAE for details.

Einstein Magazine and All Micro News is the magazine of the **Steam Computer Society** - *10 years old* and still going strong! Write to AE (Tony) Adams, *Ivy Cottage*, Church Road, New Romney, Kent TN28 8TY, enclosing a large envelope and two first class stamps for more details.

Computer Cavern/Capri Marketing carry quite a lot of unusual and hard-to-find items for your 8-bit computers. Their address is 9, Dean Street, MARLOW, Bucks SL7 3AA or phone 01628 891101.

Disk conversions: Amstrad 3" to 3½" to PC to Mac and back. Also high quality laser printing from any disk. For costs and details (charged by disk or time) contact Mike Harris at Disk Conversions, 9, Wootton Way, CAMBRIDGE, CB3 9LX. or telephone: 01223 363259.

The **Sharp Users Club**. Write to the secretary; Andrew Ferguson, 11, Harcourt Close, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1UZ, or telephone 01491 574850 for further details.

Anglia Word Processing Centre (prop: Mr Braybrook) at 10a, Old Station Road, NEWMARKET, Suffolk CB8 8DN (Tel: 01638 665856) offer word processing, DTP and other office services. They seem to have a high regard for 8-bit computers and carry equipment, some ribbons, support, spares, books etc.

CPC plc, at *Component House*, Faraday Drive, Fulwood, PRESTON, Lancs PR2 4PP are the official suppliers of Amstrad, Sinclair, Amiga and all Spectrum spares and parts. Phone: 01772 654455.

FOR SALE: Citizen 120D+ dot matrix printer. Includes traction feeder and recent ribbon. £100ono. Tel: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 from 7pm-10pm weekdays or weekends. REF:2

WANTED (for *any* 8-bit computer): information on music score-editing programs that support tablature for guitar. It is important that the application must also support conventional music symbols and typesetting rules (as per a music magazine). Phone 01469 574248 (office hours); 94 Margaret Street, IMMINGHAM, South Humberside DN40 1JY REF:2

FOR SALE: Atari XL/XE games for sale. Send SAE for list to: 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 260729 after 7pm REF:2

WANTED: A manual for Mannesmann Tally 290 printer. Please telephone first to 01253 (BLACKPOOL) 762092 REF:2

FOR SALE: CPC464, col/monitor, games £35; col/monitor for 464 £25; Dragon32, games £20; Spectrums £15-£30; Sharp MZ700 £10; Sharp MZ80B + disc drive + printer, £30; Einstein, software, colour monitor £30; BBC model B + disc drive, £35; Atari 8000XL, disc drive, tape etc £40; Oricl £20; Toshiba MSX £20. Contact Ed Harris at Berks PCW Users Club 01344 428938. REF:2

FOR SALE. Star LC100 Colour Printer. Virtually as new; almost unused other than self-tests. 1 black ribbon + 2 4- colour ribbons, 1 metre Centronics cable, manual, original packing. £115. The intended use with existing inkjet not practicable. Purchaser to arrange the transport or shipping. Mr N Bannister, 86, King Edward Drive, GRAYS, Essex RM16 4AQ. (01375 374732) REF:2

WANTED: Printer manuals for Epson FX-1000, Amstrad 3000, Dyneer Daisy DW16. Write (only) to Mr N Davies, Flat 1, 39, Broad Street, Newtown, Powys SY16 2BQ REF:1

Atari 800XE/XL games for sale. Please send SSAE for list to Tim Asson, 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 (Tamworth) 260729 after 7pm REF:2

LOADS OF GOODIES for your Spectrum, Apricot, Games console, PC: Tapes, Discs, Roms, Books, Magazines and Hardware. For list send A5 SSAE to: *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ.

Atari 800XL. Mint, 2 disc drives, Datacorder, loads of discs, plus spare keyboard. £40. APPLE IIE with loads of spares incl. (massive) service manuals and cards, discs, motherboard, etc. Write to: Mr N Woodbridge at 30, Hospital Street, NANTWICH, Cheshire CW5 5RP or phone 01270 628979 REF:2

CP/M Support: The PD Software Library, *Winscombe House*, Beacon Road, CROWBOROUGH, Sussex. (Tel: 01892 663298) owns large volumes of CP/M software from all over the globe. Send A5 SAE for their CP/M catalogue.

Trading Post, Victoria Road, SHIFNAL, Shropshire, TF11 8AF (01952 462135) have a variety of unused 8-bit computers available and even complete ones for spares from £10 Also software and hardware.

OJ Software keep good stocks of CPC kit, + joysticks/joypads, misc printers, 3" discs, ribbons and refills, CPC monitor to (loadsa computers) leads. Tel: 01257 421915.

Does anyone know of an Italian spellcheck program or Italian file for a spell checker? Write to Mr AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED (and **8BIT**) REF:2

MISCELLANEOUS SMALL ADVERTS - contd

WANTED: Bootup software for an Apricot computer. The machine was made in 1983, has a start-up test ROM but needs a 3½" CP/M boot to bring it back to life. Any data will be useful. Contact Roger Henson, 88, Falkner Street, Gloucester, Glos GL1 4SJ. Tel: 01452 303390. REF:2

SMALL WORKS DEPT

The section for offers of help and repairs at fair prices.

ACC/Tronics Ltd, Unit 6, Chancel Way, Moor Lane Ind Est, Witton, BIRMINGHAM B6 7AU (0121 344 4911 specialise in repairs, and upgrades to Amstrads and may be able to assist with other older computers.

Commodore 64 Technical advice:- If you have a technical problem on a C64/128 write to; Andrew Fisher, the former technical consultant to **Commodore Format** and **Commodore Force** at 30, Rawlyn Road, CAMBRIDGE CB5 8NL England. Enclose a SSAE or an Intl Reply Coupon for a fast reply.

For help on CPC-related problems, try Philip DiRichleau, (editor of **WACCI** magazine), Ground Floor Flat, 121, Ripon Road, LINCOLN Lincs LN5 7NG. Write to him explaining your problem, or you can phone him on 01522 511608. If Philip cannot help (and he probably will be able to) he will find someone who can.

Amstrad PCW8256/8512 parts for DIY repair: 3" drives, CPU boards, Power boards, Tubes, Keyboards, printers, etc. Also some books and software. Advice freely given. SAE please for lists and info. Ron King, 19, Stancliffe Road, BEDFORD, Beds MK41 9AN

Replacement disc drive belts for CPC, PCW and Spectrum 3" drives. Flat type belts with full but simple fitting instructions. £2.45 incl p&p. Mr André J Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED

Bull Electrical, at 250, Portland Road, HOVE, Sussex BN3 5QT (tel: 01273 203500) keep various parts, spares, 3½" drives etc for 8-bit computers.

Peak Print are specialist A5 printers to Clubs and Societies. Can print directly from some formats of discs. 12, South Fields Road, Oakley Hay Bus Park, CORBY, Northants NN18 9EU. Tel: 01536 746334.

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THE BERKSHIRE AMSTRAD PCW CLUB

Publishing these details on the **Club** will reduce the mail in my 'pending, awaiting publication' tray by about 50%. Ed Harris is one of the most active and prolific PCW users and supporters, and no week goes by without some missive from him hitting the mat at **8BIT**.

Ed it was who gave us the benefit of his experiences of getting 'on-line' in the last issue. It is a tribute to his powers of written communication that I received letters from several non-PCW users saying it was the first time they had understood an article on e-mail, the internet and related topics.

The **Berks Club** is unashamedly a professional venture, explained by the fact that Ed feels that only a professional outfit could properly do the job it does. A recent recruitment drive offered a free PCW with daisy wheel to the first person to introduce 20 new members. Very promotions-minded is our Ed!

Among services offered to members are; comms packages with inkjet printer cartridges, modems, discs (3½" and 3" - apparently he has a private source), disc mailing envelopes, image scanning, disc boxes, tutorials taken from PCW magazines (slightly dodgy copyright situation there, Ed?), photocopying at just *6p* for double-sided A4, letterhead design and printing, newsletter publishing for third parties, an accommodation address facility, and so on and so on. He even does alkaline batteries!

I particularly liked the look of the keyboard drawer units at £25 and monitor turntable for £11 (just £32 together). *All* services are charged with no VAT added, just the cost of postage and packing.

A recent addition to the list is the offer of a 286, 386, or 486 PC (why am I telling you this?) with or without LocoScript Professional 2+ word processor software (good grief) pre-installed, plus a printer (if you like) with optional colour print facility at prices from only £190.

BAUD, The **Club** newsletter, is loud in more ways than one. The print is large and the opinions outspoken. If you want to keep your ears intact, don't ask him what he thinks of the new PcW16. Perhaps he'll change his mind once he's had a chance to get his hands on one for a week or two. That said, the magazine carries a lot of very sound PCW advice and information and he has just started attaching reprints of articles from the PCW commercial press (oh dear, it's that dodgy copyright thing again).

A recent venture is **AMNET**, a national and international network for PCW users separated by distance, but connected by phone, fax, e-mail and letter. He can also now offer spares, service, advice and support for *all* 8-bit computers.

Ed's newest service is that of computing Ombudsman, whereby he will air grievances over bad computer-related service ("A PcW16? Och, you could have yoor eye oot wi' that!" Thank you, Lynn Ffaulds-Paper.)

The **Berkshire Amstrad PCW Club** is at 121, Bulbrook Drive, Bracknell, Berks RG12 2QR. Membership is just £12 per year. Phone or fax is 01344 428938, mobile is 0585 220204, and e-mail is ed@lentil.demon.co.uk.

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If any computer group would like to submit a statement of what they offer, I will be pleased to publish it here in **8BIT**, after the small advertisements, as space allows. BW.

THE LEGAL STUFF: PLEASE NOTE: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, copyright on all articles in **8BIT** or its predecessor **8BIT Mart**, is jointly held by Brian Watson and/or the relevant author, *but may be freely reproduced elsewhere as long as BIT's name, full address, and phone number are credited as the source*. In fact, I will supply copies of any articles on disc, if required, but phone first to ensure we can agree on a disc format which suits both. I understand from a contributor that his work has been lifted wholesale from another publication and published elsewhere without acknowledgement; not fair, not big, not clever.

DISCLAIMER: The contents of **8BIT** are published on the basis that they are opinion or believed true at the time of publication. *I*'m doing my best, but no liability can be accepted by Brian Watson or contributors for any loss or damage, distress or upset, however caused. I am careful to try to supply a realistic value to any hunch, belief, opinion, rumour or fact but clangers can still happen. So, "Sorry if I get something wrong, please tell me if/when it happens so that I can set the record straight."

THE REAL WORLD: The many pressures on my time of family, business, hobbies and deadlines mean individual replies to letters cannot be guaranteed, promptly or at all. I'm not (I hope) rude, I'm just a very busy person.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Details of **8BIT**'s subscribers will not be divulged without their express or strongly implied permission, and never for marketing purposes (especially to the person who sent me three 'First Issues' in a year, none of which, as far as I know, got finished or distributed). There is action being taken by some CPC groups to pool some of their information in the interests of contacting those who are still 8-bit users but may not now be in touch with a user group or other support. **8BIT** is participating in the project, but readers' confidentiality is being respected by handling all confidential information by each group 'in house.'

HELP, SUPPORT, and LOW-COST REPAIRS: The advertising pages, especially the 'miscellaneous' and 'small works' section, are the best places for appeals for (or offers of) help, and I assume that the appropriate 'permission to publish' is implied with any pleading letter received unless otherwise stated. With the supplies of some older computer equipment (especially peripherals) dwindling, it is unfortunately cheaper to replace the item than have it repaired resulting in the *working* parts of the failed item being lost when it goes in the bin. **8BIT**'s advertisements can be a key to locating a low-cost solution. It would be appreciated if the magazine could be mentioned when advertisers are contacted.

NETWORKING WITHOUT A PC: There is still a golden opportunity for a network of low-cost repairers to do some of the small jobs on older computers, such as replacing drive belts, fitting replacement drives (keeping the old ones for spares), and fixing other small faults economically. To minimise postage costs, especially on larger items like monitors and keyboards, I am prepared to offer a free courier service throughout East Anglia and London north of the Thames. For now, there are some offers already included in the small advertisements **MISCELLANEOUS** and **SMALL WORKS** sections and, in addition, Philip DiRichleau of the CPC user group **WACCI** has volunteered his assistance to find parts, repairers, and help generally. His time is precious too so write in the first place to Ground Floor Flat, 121, Ripon Street, LINCOLN, Lincs LN5 7NG.

COMING NEXT TIME: Apart from all the stuff which I didn't have space for this issue, I am *hoping* to make it a bit of a SAM special, as I believe there is a case for saying it is *the best* 8-bit home computer. Undeveloped so far? Yes, but ripe with potential for software development. Read the evidence and *then* make your mind up. In the mean time, keep your eyes open for one in the local paper or a car boot sale. You'll know a SAM when you see one; it looks like a pull-along toy keyboard, missing only the string! Copy date for the next **8BIT** is 15th December 1996, and issue 15 will be published at the beginning of January 1997.